The Office Action refers to Figures 58 and 61 of the IBM documents and states that the IBM document discloses simultaneously adjusting tile windows, multiple non-overlapping display areas, display controls, and size controls. However, it should be noted that the IBM document describes display aspects of the operating system OS/2. The tile arrangement illustrated in Figure 58 allows multiple windows to be displayed in a tile format. However, the IBM document does not teach or suggest automatically resizing the display areas simultaneously with one control action. Indeed, tiling arrangements of this era require the user to manually adjust the size of each tile and manually position each tile on the display screen. Neither Windows 3.1 or OS/2 automatically resize the tiled windows. When the user enlarges a single window so that it fills the entire display area, the remaining three inactive windows are "underneath" the active window and are not visible to the user. At a subsequent time, when the user reduces the active window to its previous size, the four tiled windows will once again be visible. However, the size of the inactive windows does not change. If the user wishes to enlarge the active window while still keeping the three remaining windows visible, the user can "drag" the border of the active window to the desired size. The size of the inactive windows does not change and the active window will overlap the remaining windows to some degree. There is no action, such as a "drag-and-drop" mouse function that allows the user to enlarge one window while automatically reducing the size of the other windows so that the display windows remain non-overlapping. The IBM document does not teach or suggest a non-overlapping approach when resizing the windows. If, for example, the user wishes to enlarge the upper left window, the upper left window will overlap the remaining windows. Thus, the IBM document does not teach or suggest independent non-overlapping display windows with adjustable sizes so that a single action will cause the resizing of all windows, as recited in claim 1 of the present invention.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the system shown in the IBM document has only a single active window at a time. In the example of Figure 58, the upper left window is active as indicated by the presence of a scroll bar on the right portion of the active window. Figure 61 illustrates a single active display area split into four panes and shows scroll bars that control the scrolling activity in multiple panes. For example, users can vertically scroll the top two panes with the top vertical scroll bar and scroll the bottom two panes with the bottom

vertical scroll bar. (See p. 100, ¶ 2.) Thus, a single scroll bar controls scrolling activity in multiple panes. This approach teaches directly away from claim 1 which specifies that "each non-overlapping display area having independent display area controls."

Finally, the IBM document does not permit activity in multiple windows. That is, only one window at a time is active. In Figure 58, the upper left window is active, as previously noted. In Figure 61, a single window is split into multiple panes. However, the multiple panes do not permit the display of multiple objects, but merely display multiple parts of a single object. For example, a single spreadsheet may have multiple sections of interest to the user. The multiple panes can be used to display different parts of a spreadsheet in a side-by-side fashion. However, these are not multiple objects and the display areas do not independently display web pages. This is in sharp contrast to claim 1 of the present invention, in which the independent display areas have independent display controls and are configured to independently display web pages received by the computer.

The Office Action states that, while the IBM document does not explicitly displaying "a web page," Helfman does teach such a system. However, the careful reading of Helfman indicates that it is simply discloses a technique for passively browsing the Internet by pointing a cursor at a selected image and maintaining a list of addresses (*i.e.*, a URL) associated with each image. This eliminates the need for the user to type in the URL and allows faster access to images. However, clicking on a particular image transmits a specific URL for a particular website. Any additional images or URLs are retrieved are based on the execution of code from that one single website. For example, clicking on the home page of a web site, such as a news network, results in the display of multiple images. These images may be tiled, overlapping, non-overlapping, or any combination thereof. However, the specific display of images is under control of the web browser and the web site not under control of the user. Furthermore, the multiple images that may be retrieved from a web site are displayed in a single active pane on a display.

The combination of the IBM document and Helfman would still not result in the invention recited in claim 1. As previously discussed, the IBM document does not permit more than one active window at a time. If the teachings of Helfman were combined with the IBM document, the multiple images retrieved from a single web site would be displayed in the active

window. This does teach or even suggest multiple active windows that are each sending independent requests to independent web sites where multiple images may be retrieved from the web sites and displayed in each of the display panes. Thus, the combination of the IBM document and Helfman do not suggest the claimed invention.

Specifically, claim 1 recites *inter alia* a display having "a plurality of non-overlapping display areas having adjustable sizes, the plurality of non-overlapping display areas having a collective size equal to the sum of the non-overlapping display areas." As discussed in greater detail above, with each of the non-overlapping display areas "having independent display area controls and configured to independently display a web page received by the computer." As discussed above, the combination of the IBM document and Helfman does not teach multiple display areas that operate independently and independently display web pages received by the computer. As noted above, the display system disclosed in the IBM document does not permit more than one window to be active at a time. Thus, the IBM system could not send independent web requests for each display area and independently display the results on each of those independent display windows. Finally, claim 1 recites "a sizing control operable by a user to adjust the sizes of the display areas simultaneously with one control action while maintaining the collective size of the plurality of non-overlapping display areas." Thus, the user may display multiple web pages independently in multiple display areas. In one example, illustrated in Figure 2, four display area are illustrated with each display area configured to display a different web page. The specific layout of the web pages shown in the display area is under the control of the web browser and under the control of the web site by virtue of the images returned to the computer in response to a request for a web page. That is, the web site may send back multiple images with instructions for the web browser to display the multiple images in a tile format, overlapping, non-overlapping, or any combination thereof. However, as discussed above, this action occurs in a single display area under control of the web site and the web browser. Helfman is directed to the multiple display images from a particular web site and does not teach or suggest transmitting multiple requests to simultaneously display the multiple web pages in multiple independent display areas. Finally, neither reference, taken alone or in combination, suggests a sizing control whereby all of the display areas may be automatically resized with one control action while maintaining the collective size of the non-overlapping display areas. This is

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illustrated in Figure 3 of the application where the user may enlarge, by way of example, the upper right display area while automatically reducing the size of the remaining there display areas. Accordingly, claim 1 is clearly allowable over the cited references.

Claims 2-8 are also allowable in view of the fact that they depend from claim 1, and further in view of the recitation in each of those claims. For example, claim 2 recites that the computer system executes "only one instance of a software program involved with sending the web page requests and receiving and displaying web pages." In one example embodiment, only a single instance of Internet Explorer is required. While Helfman discloses a web browser software program. Helfman is only sending and displaying the contents from a single web page. The mere fact that the web page returns multiple images does not even suggest sending multiple requests for web pages and displaying those web pages in independently controllable display areas. For example, Figures 2 and 3, discussed above, illustrate the independent display of four different web pages using only a single instance of Internet browser software. The cited references do not teach or even suggest sending multiple requests to multiple different web pages and independently displaying those web pages on different display areas.

Claim 9 is directed to a system having a display with independent controls and "a plurality of non-overlapping display areas, each display area having independent display area controls and configured to independently display a web page." Claim 9 further recites "a sizing control operable by a user to alter the sizes of the display areas simultaneously with one control action."

As discussed above with respect to claim 1, the references do not teach any system where multiple display areas are independently active to independently display a web page. The system disclosed in the IBM document has multiple windows, but only one window is active at a time. The system disclosed in the IBM document does not teach or suggest multiple independent display areas each having independent display area controls. Finally, the references, taken alone or in combination, do not suggest a sizing control that is operable by the user to alter the display sizes simultaneously with one control action. As previously noted, the tiling system disclosed in Figures 58 and 61 of the IBM document do not permit such automatic resizing. If the user enlarges one display area, it is at the expense of overlapping the other display areas. In

this case, the displays are not "non-overlapping" as required by claim 9. Accordingly, claim 9 is clearly allowable over the cited references.

Claims 10-18 are also allowable in view of the fact that they depend from claim 9, and further in view of the recitation in each of those claims.

Claim 19 is an independent method claim directed to the display of multiple web pages and recites *inter alia* "displaying the requested web pages wherein the requested web pages are displayed in a non-overlapping manner in a display area having a size." Claim 19 further recites "changing the size of a first web page displayed in response to a sizing control command; and resizing the web pages other than the first web page to maintain the size of the display area of all the web pages." As discussed above with respect to other independent claims, the references cited in the Office Action do not suggest displaying multiple web pages in multiple non-overlapping displays wherein the size of the display of one web page may be changed in response to a user command and wherein the remaining web pages are automatically resized in order to maintain the non-overlapping display area for all of the web pages. Thus, claim 19 is clearly allowable over the cited references.

Claims 20-23 are also allowable in view of the fact that they depend from claim 19, and further in view of the recitation in each of those claims.

Claim 24 is a system claim that recites *inter alia* "a computer system configured to send requests for web pages via the network to web page sites," as well as "to receive web pages via the network from web page sites." The system also recites "a display having a plurality of non-overlapping display areas configured to independently display a web page received by the computer." A first software program is configured to send the web page requests and to receive web pages "using only one instance of the software program." Finally, a second software program is configured "to display the web pages in the non-overlapping display areas while a plurality of web pages are independently displayed in the plurality of the non-overlapping display areas." As previously discussed, the system disclosed in the IBM document does not have non-overlapping display areas that can independently display web pages. Indeed, the system in the IBM document does not permit more than one active window at a time and does not suggest multiple active independent display areas. Thus the IBM document teaches directly away from

the claimed invention, which permits the independent display of web pages in non-overlapping display areas. Thus, claim 24 is clearly allowable over the cited references.

Claim 25 is directed to a display system in which a list of web site pages is available and includes a computer system configured to send requests for web pages to web page sites and receive web pages from the web page sites. Claim 25 recites *inter alia* "a display having a plurality of display areas configured to independently display a web page received by the computer; and a display control configured to activate a group of the display areas to each display a web page from a list of web page sites." As previously discussed, the combination of references cited in the Office Action do not suggest a plurality of display areas configured to independently display web pages received by the computer. As noted above, Helfman displays multiple images in a single display area under the control of a web site. Furthermore, the references, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a list of web page sites which are used to provide the data to the display areas. It should be noted that the "list" of URLs described in Helfman are, in fact, a list of URLs are associated with the graphic images shown on the display. That is, a list of URLs associated with the graphic images and, when the user selects a particular graphic image, the underlying URL is transmitted over the computer network. This teaches directly away from the present invention which performs the opposite procedure. There are no graphic images associated with the list of web site pages recited in claim 25. Rather, claim 25 recites a system in which a list of web page sites are used to retrieve the data for display in the display areas. Helfman does not teach or suggest a display control configured to activate a group of display areas to each display a web page from a list of web page sites. Indeed, neither of the references, taken alone or in combination, suggest a plurality of display areas configured to independently display a web page or a system in which a group of display areas are activated to display web pages from a list of web page sites. Thus, claim 25 is clearly allowable over the cited references.

Claims 26-29 are also allowable in view of the fact that they depend from claim 25 and further in view of the recitation in each of those claims. For example, claim 26 recites a display control that is further configured "to select the list of web page sites from a plurality of lists of web page sites, the computer system configured to store the plurality of lists of web page sites." Helfman discloses a single list containing a one-to-one correspondence between images

on the display and the underlying URL. (See column 4, lines 32-36.) In contrast, the invention recited in claim 26 contains a plurality of lists of web sites. As illustrated in Figures 15-17 of the present invention, the user may specify multiple home pages for the display areas as well as multiple lists of web sites. For example, a user may have a list of financial web sites that are independently displayed in the multiple display areas. In addition, the user may have a list of sports web sites that are independently displayed in the plurality of display areas. It should be noted that none of these lists are selected based on an association with displayed images, such as taught by Helfman. Furthermore, the user does not select any URL in the list of web sites by pointing to a graphic image. Thus, claim 26 is clearly allowable over the cited references.

Claims 27-29 are directed to various aspects of multiple display lists. For example, claim 27 is directed to a system in which the groups of display lists are displayed in a predetermined order. The multiple display areas may sequentially display data from multiple web sites in the lists in a predetermined order. Claim 28 is directed to a system in which one display area may display lists in a sequence other than the predetermined order. None of the references cited in the Office Action suggest such a system.

Claim 30 is directed to a system for displaying web pages and recites *inter alia* "to select the list of web page sites from a plurality of lists of web page sites, the computer system configured to store the plurality of lists of web page sites" and includes a computer system configured to send requests for web pages to web page sites and receive web pages from the web page sites based "upon a selected list of the stored web page sites in the data storage area." Finally, claim 30 recites a display having a plurality of display areas, each display area configured to independently display a web page received by the computer. As noted above, the IBM document only allows one display area to be active at a time and thus cannot independently display web pages received by the computer. Helfman does not overcome this deficiency since it is directed only to a single display area that displays multiple images under control of the web site and browser software (there are no independent display areas). Further, Helfman displays a plurality of images and maintains a single list associating each of the images with an underlying associated URL. However, there are no multiple display areas that independently display web pages, such as recited in claim 30. Accordingly, claim 30 is clearly allowable over the cited references.

Claims 31-35 are also allowable in view of the fact that they depend from claim 30, and further in view of the recitation in each of those claims. For example, claim 31 is directed to a system in which a list of web page addresses is stored in the data storage area and a selection control is configured to "select a first set of web pages to be displayed in the display areas from the list" wherein the number of web pages from the first set is less than or equal to the number of display areas in the plurality of display areas. The cited references do not teach or suggest the selection of a set of web site pages that are less than or equal to the number of display areas. Indeed, as discussed above, the combination of references does not even suggest the independent display of web pages on the multiple display areas. Thus, claim 31 is clearly allowable over the cited references. Claims 32-35 are directed to additional features of the display controls. For example, claim 33 is directed to a system in which the first set of web site pages are displayed according to an order of the first set of web pages and subsequently displays web site pages from the second page to the selected display area to replace the web page assigned from the first set of web pages. Claim 34 is directed to a system in which a scroll control is configured to control an advancement of the display of web pages from the list of web pages with the web pages being displayed on selected display areas according to an order of the list such that the scroll control sequentially shifts one web page from the a selected display to a different selected display area. Claim 35 is directed to a control lock that is configured to designate a selected display area for which no sequential shifting will occur. The references cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest such control. Accordingly, claims 31-35 are allowable over the cited references.

It should be noted that claims 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the IBM document combined with Helfman and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,414,809 to Hogan et al. The Office Action cites Hogan et al. as teaching the use of graphical controls to select a scroll lock option. However, the scroll locking referred to in Hogan et al. is scroll locking within a particular display. In sharp contrast, the scrolling referred to in claims 34 and 35 is a system wherein multiple display areas are sequentially scrolling from one web site to another. In one example discussed above, the user may have a predesignated list of financial web sites. Using this example, in accordance with the principles of the present invention, as recited in claim 34, the user may scroll through the list of financial web sites such
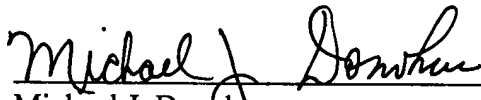
each of the plurality of display areas will display sequential ones of the financial web sites. Thus, the display "scrolls" through the list of web sites. The scroll locking feature recited in claim 35 allows the user to designate a single display area, such as, by way of example, the upper left display area, which will display a selected web site and will not be active in the scrolling process. In an example of four display areas, one display area will not scroll through the list of web sites while the remaining three display areas will sequentially scroll through the list of web sites. This is a completely different function than a scroll lock feature such as described in Hogan et al. Thus, claims 34 and 35 are clearly over the combination of the IBM document, Helfman, and Hogan et al.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the subject application and its allowance is kindly requested. If questions remain regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian G. Duperrouzel et al.

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

Michael J. Donohue
Registration No. 35,859

MJD:gatc

Enclosure:
    Postcard

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092
Phone: (206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031

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